(c) whether Government propose to issue more licence to private bus operators in Delhi; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No additional buses have been put on the road by DTC on account of financial constraints.

(b) In view of the fact that permits have been given to 3000 private operators for operating buses on various Delhi routes, there has been an improvement in the situation.

(c) The State Transport Authority, Delhi propose to grant 100 more stage carriage permits for luxury buses for plying in different routes of Delhi.

Condition of National Highways in Bihar

428. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highways passing through Bihar are in most deplorable condition;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures are being taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The National Highways passing through Bihar are being kept generally in a traffic-worthy condition within the availability of funds.

(c) During the last 3 years (1989-90 to 1991-92), flood damages/special repair works costing Rs. 669.969 lakhs and improvement works costing Rs. 6431.050 lakhs have been sanctioned for various National Highways in Bihar, in addition to release of normal maintenance grant.

Road Accidents in Andhra Pradesh

429. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of road accidents occurred on the National Highway in between Vijayawada and Chilakaluripeta in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years together with the number of casualties as a result thereof;

(b) what are the reasons therfor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Stretch-wise information of road accidents are not maintained.

(c) The steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve road safety are indicated in the attached statement.

Statement

The steps taken/being taken include—

1. The M.V. Act, 1988 and the Rules framed thereunder provide for stricter requirements in respect of issuance of driving licences and stringent penalities for offences.
2.. Formal training in a driving school is made a pre-requisite for issuance of licence to drive transport vehicles.
3. Maximum safe laden weights have been prescribed for trucks including light commercial vehicles.
4. Maximum speed limits have been prescribed for all vehicles except light motor vehicles.
5. Uniform intervals for checking the fitness of vehicles have been prescribed throughout the country.
6. It is prescribed that road safety devices would be fitted in the vehicles viz. direction indicators with blinker system for vehicles, special labels on carriages earring dangerous or hazardous goods.
7. A National Road Safety Council has been set up for formulation of road safety measures. State Governments were also requested to set up State level road safety councils.

8. Strict and rigid enforcement of traffic rules and regulations.
9. Regular special drive against rash and neglegent driving, driving without driving licences, drunken driving, defective headlights over-speeding, over-loading etc.
10. Regular prosecution of violation through issue of notices.
11. School children are regularly imparted necessary training/ education in the schools about the rules of the roads and related safety aspects by the roads safety cell of Delhi Traffic Police.
12. Introduction of blinkers/signals at accident prone areas.
13. Prosecution through Radar Guns.
14. More Police presence in accident prone areas.
15. Special morning drives and night mobile patrolling.
16. Use of Doordarshan/AIR/Press for giving wide publicity on road safety.
17. Painting of bus boxes, yellow boxes.
18. Special night checking on Highways.
19. Special Drive against buses, HTVs, TSRs, Taxis etc.
20. Painting competitions and other road safety activities are being organised by Road Safety Cell to inculcate the sense of road safety among various road users and children.

Hike in Taxes on Vehicles with National Permits

430. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has suggested for raising of taxes on vehicles plying on national permits as per the newsitem entitled 'SC for hike in National Permit Fee' which appeared in Times of India, dated the 9th September, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Order dated 8th September, 1992 in Writ Petition No. 488/92 has referred to the fact that the transport operators associations had suggested that the revenues which the States could lose by abolishing pathkar could be replenished to the States by appropriately enhancing the tax on motor vehicles plying on national permits. The Hon'ble Supreme Court had stated that it would' be appropriate that the Union of India should explore the possibilities of the solution suggested by the transport operators associations. The Central Government have sought the views of concerned State Governments on the above.

Road Accidents

431. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of road accidents in the country during the last six months, and the number of persons died/injured as a result thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that overloaded trucks are responsible for majority of these accidents; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken to check this malpractice of over-loading?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Plying of Ordinary D.T.C. Buses

432. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of ordinary D.T.C. buses are